

Message Text

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SUBJECT: FORMATION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FLOOR GROUPS

REF: SEOUL 1408

BEGIN SUMMARY: NINTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL HAVE THREE AND PERHAPS FOUR " FLOOR GROUPS." TWO PRO- GOVERNMENT GROUPS IN NEW NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAVE COMPLETED ORGANIZATION OF THEIR FLOOR LEADERSHIP, BUT OPPOSITION AND INDEPENDENTS HAVE NOT. END SUMMARY .

1. REVITALIZATION GROUP (RG-- FORMALLY DUBBED REVITALIZING REFORMS POLITICAL FRATERNITY) COMPLETED ITS ORGANIZATION WITH ELECTION OF PAEK TU- CHIN AS CHAIRMAN AND SELECTION OF OTHER LEADERS MARCH 10. MIN PYONG- KWON, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF DRP CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND FORMER GENERAL, WAS APPOINTED RG FLOOR LEADER. ASSISTANT FLOOR LEADERS ARE YI YONG- KUN, FORMERLY SECRETARY TO PRIME MINISTER; YI TO- SON, FORMER DRP ASSEMBLYMAN AND DIRECTOR OF DRP' S TRAINING INSTITUTE; AND YI CHONG- SHIK, FORMER DEPUTY MANAGING EDITOR OF CHOSON ILBO, WHO WILL ALSO BE RG SPOKESMAN.

2. APPOINTMENT MARCH 10 OF RG MEMBER KU TAE- HOE AS MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS APPEARS INTENDED TO PLEASE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND TO GIVE RG STATUS IN CABINET
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BALANCING DRP' S YI PYONG- HUI, WHO REMAINS MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS. KU IS MEMBER OF FAMILY OWNING " LUCKY" COMBINE. HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF DRP POLICY COMMITTEE UNTIL HE RESIGNED DRP MARCH 8 TO JOIN RG.

3. FORMER DRP TREASURER KIM CHIN- MAN WHO ALSO TRANSFERRED TO RG MARCH 8 WAS SELECTED TO BE A VICE SPEAKER OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND ELECTED MARCH 12.

4. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN PARTY (DRP) COMPLETED ORGANIZATION OF ITS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FLOOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MARCH 12 WITH APPOINTMENT OF KIM IN- SHIK, KIM YONG- HOW, SONG NAK- HYON AND PAK CHOL AS DEPUTY FLOOR LEADERS TO ASSIST FLOOR LEADER KIM YONG- T' AE. BASIS CITED FOR THEIR SELECTION, AND FOR OTHER DRP LEADERSHIP POSITIONS, WAS MAINLY LONGEVITY IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. PAK CHOL IS THE ONLY NEWCOMER.

5. FURTHER APPARENT DRP ADJUSTMENT TO REVITALIZED POLITICS WAS ABOLITION OF PARTY FINANCE COMMITTEE DISCLOSED MARCH 10. OSTENSIBLE MEANING OF THIS MOVE IS THAT DRP WILL NOT PRESSURE BUSINESSMEN FOR CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE FUTURE. HOWEVER, PARTY SOURCES INFORM US THAT DRP STILL EXPECTS POLITICAL FUNDS AND A BUDGET ADEQUATE TO KEEP ITS TRAINING INSTITUTE AND DISTRICT LIAISON OFFICES ACTIVE.

6. NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND INDEPENDENTS ARE HAVING TROUBLE ORGANIZING FLOOR MANAGEMENT TEAMS. NDP CHAIRMAN YU CHIN- SAN STATED MARCH 12 THAT THE NDP PROBABLY WILL NOT NAME ITS CANDIDATE FOR VICE SPEAKER OR ITS FLOOR LEADERSHIP UNTIL AFTER THE CURRENT ASSEMBLY SESSION HAD ADJOURNED. GROUP OF 21 MREMAINING ASSEMBLYMEN (19 INDEPENDENTS AND 2 DUP) AT MEETING MARCH 10 DECIDED TO FORM A SEPARATE NEGOTIATING GROUP AND DESIGNATED COMMITTEE OF EIGHT (FIVE PRO- GOVT AND THREE PRO- OPPOSITION) TO MAKE PREPARATIONS. HOWEVER, ARGUMENT DEVELOPED OVER WHETHER INDEPENDENT GROUP SHOULD SUPPORT REVITALIZING REFORMS. THIS LED DEMOCRATIC UNIFICATION PARTY MEMBERS TO WITHDRAW, REDUCING NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS BELOW LEGAL MINIMUM OF TWENTY NEEDED FOR RECOGNITION AS A FLOOR GROUP. WHETHER AND HOW THIS GROUP WILL ORGANIZE ITSELF FOR CONDUCT OF ASSEMBLY BUSINESS REMAINS UNCERTAIN. DECON 1-1-74.
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